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Using your SmartBoard to its Fullest Capacity

Last summer, I had a Promethean Board installed in my second grade classroom. I was very leery about having it installed because I had no idea what it was capable of. After taking a class, I was still leery and very overwhelmed. As the school year progressed, I became more comfortable with using my Promethean Board. On the weekends, I would prepare lessons for the next week especially for Math. I created many flipcharts using the manipulatives that my math book uses to teach my students new topics. Being able to add and subtract manipulatives made my math lessons come alive. Students were able to visualize and manipulative the problem. Counters, money, clocks, and shapes on the Promethean Board made learning more interactive.

By organizing my flipcharts into subject folders, then chapter folders, then page numbers, make finding the correct flipchart easier. I of course learned this the hard way. After a few months of school, and constantly searching and opening the wrong flipchart; I learned to organize my flipcharts.

Promethean Planet is a wonderful resource for finding premade flipcharts. I have searched and downloaded several flipcharts. Many of them I have modified to suit my needs. This summer and during the upcoming school year I am hoping to create more flipcharts for English and Reading. Many companies are offering PDF files on a CD-ROM that contain information that once was on overheads or paper charts. I have purchased my Vowac transparencies on a CD-ROM and can’t wait to use them this school year. I will upload them and save them to my computer by lessons for easy access to them. I am definitely on the lookout for more CD-ROMS that support my curriculum.

I find that it is easy to create flipcharts on the weekends after I have done my planning for the upcoming week so I can think ways on how I can enhance my lessons for the next week. Last school year, I focused on my Math curriculum, this year I am hoping to focus on my English and Reading curriculum. Yes, I created flipcharts for other areas but really focused on my math curriculum. I feel my Math is almost complete so I feel like I can give another area more attention. I didn’t want to get overwhelmed with all the flipcharts that I wanted to create so focusing on a subject area helped to alleviate some of the pressure.

I have become very attached to my Promethean Board and use it throughout the day. I start each day with a flipchart I created. The flipchart includes a calendar, events of the day, counting number of school days using tens and ones, counting money, and map skills. It is interactive and students are called up to complete each page. I use it to teach Handwriting and Math daily. I use it for other subject areas as they come up. I have learned to love my Promethean Board and can’t believe what a wonderful asset it has been to my classroom. Not only have I benefited from it but I feel my students have also benefited from it too. It has been a wonderful learning journey for both me the teacher and my students.